

HONORING NELS JOHNSON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nels Johnson of Fairfax, California, for more than 40 years of outstanding reporting at the Marin Independent Journal (IJ), the largest daily newspaper in Marin County. Mr. Johnson's columns and articles have sparked conversations and changed policies in our community for decades, and his presence in the paper will be sorely missed.

A graduate of Rutgers University in New Jersey, Mr. Johnson initially came to California in a Volkswagen van on a cross-country road trip in the early 1970s. After working briefly at a weekly paper in Tiburon, he joined the IJ as a reporter in May of 1972, where he continued to work through his retirement on April 28 of this year.

Mr. Johnson's encyclopedic knowledge of Marin County and its government is unparalleled. During his tenure, he covered some of the largest stories in the North Bay. From the Trailside Killer to the Mount Vision Fire to monitoring Supervisors' expense accounts, Mr. Johnson was at the forefront of the news he covered—and once, famously, became part of the story himself. When an elderly couple in Inverness disappeared in 1994, his reporting led investigators to find the truck in nearby Lake Nicasio.

Throughout my years as a California State Assemblyman and now as Member of Congress, I always found his coverage to be tough, fearless, and fair. He often used his voice to empower the voiceless, particularly in elevating threats facing local fisheries and fishers. I appreciate the unbridled passion for journalism Mr. Johnson brought to the Marin IJ, and his honest approach to both big and small stories.

I know I am not the only one of his readers who will miss Mr. Johnson's dogged reporting, insight into local news and issues, and, of course, his column on fishing. Mr. Speaker, it is therefore fitting that we honor and thank Nels Johnson for his immeasurable contributions to civic life in Marin County and California.

RECOGNIZING DEBORAH HABES AS SHE IS HONORED BY THE AMHERST WOMEN'S INTERCLUB COUNCIL

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Deborah Habes for her honorable service and dedication to our community on the occasion of the Kentucky Derby Luncheon at the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village, hosted by the Amherst Women's Interclub Council.

A resident of the Village of Williamsville since 1977, Ms. Habes has been the cornerstone to her community for several years. She has been the Village of Williamsville Deputy Clerk since 2001, and previously occupied the

role of Village Building Department Clerk from 1991 to 2001.

In addition to her official duties, Ms. Habes volunteers extensively. She is a member of the Williamsville Business Association (WBA) on the Board of Directors. Currently she is Chair of the WBA Community Enhancement Committee, Chair of the 'Love Your Village, Love Your Library Mad Hatter Returns!' Fund-raiser Gala since 2012, volunteer member of the Village Beautification Committee since 1990, and Volunteer Chair of the Village of Williamsville Garden Walk since 2010, and Volunteer Chair of the annual Village/WBA Main Street in Bloom Project. As a village resident, village volunteer and a village employee, she aids in this committee's mission to bring together Village residents, businesses and the Village government as a unified community force.

In 2005, drastic budget cuts eliminated the branch from county funding. After the great, and much appreciated efforts of other dedicated community members enough funds were raised to allow the library to remain open, but with very limited hours. Under Ms. Habes' leadership the committee picked up the reins, and continued to support this library by starting the 'Love Your Village; Love Your Library' movement and presented the inaugural Gala Fundraiser inside the Williamsville Library in February 2012. They have now celebrated 5 years of increasing success for this now signature Village-centric event, and the Committee is happy to report that through a combined effort, thousands of dollars have been raised in the last 5 years solely for the support of the Williamsville Branch.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for allowing me a few moments to honor the work of Mrs. Deborah Habes. I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our thanks for her admirable work to better the Village of Williamsville.

HONORING THE NORTHWEST INDIANA BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2016

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect and admiration that I rise to commend numerous exceptional leaders from Indiana who were honored as the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame's Class of 2016. While there were many deserving nominees, the individuals selected as this year's inductees include: Greg Ludkovsky, Frank Schilling, Harley Snyder, JoAnn Birdzell, Urschel Laboratories, Incorporated, and State Senator Earline Rogers. For their many contributions to the advancement of Northwest Indiana, these honorees were recognized at a ceremony at the Radisson Hotel Celebrity Ballroom in Merrillville, Indiana, on Tuesday, May 10, 2016.

Since 2007, Greg Ludkovsky has been vice president of global research and development at ArcelorMittal. He has been a driving force for global customer relations, which has changed ArcelorMittal from a materials supplier to a solutions supplier. Greg works directly with automotive original equipment manufacturers to develop one-of-a-kind steel. In

addition, he has been a leader in engaging East Chicago school students by bringing them into the facility to teach them about the science and technology that takes place at ArcelorMittal each day.

Frank Schilling is the president of Schilling Home Improvement Center. Schilling Home Improvement Center has been very successful and currently serves more than 400 contractors. In addition, Schilling Development currently has 1,000 lots ready for housing development in Northwest Indiana. Frank and his wife, Shirley, have put much time and effort into building the Shrine of Christ's Passion, located in Saint John. This moving interactive prayer trail illustrates the last days of the life of Jesus Christ. Frank is very active in charitable organizations and is involved with the Women's Crisis Center and the American Heart Association.

Harley Snyder is a real estate and land development executive and the president of HSC, Incorporated. He recently completed ten years as the governor's founding appointee to the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority. In this position, he worked on the development of the Gary/Chicago International Airport, as well as the expansion and improvement of the South Shore commuter rail line. Throughout his truly impressive career, Harley has helped to develop some 3,000 homes in Lake and Porter Counties. In 1976, he became the first chairman of the Realtor's Equal Opportunity Committee, which created the first non-discrimination agreement. This helped to ensure that people of any race or religion could own a home. In addition, Harley has served on the board of Valparaiso University for twenty years, is a member of the Porter County Community Foundation, and was the first chairman of the Northwest Indiana Forum.

JoAnn Birdzell is the chief executive officer (CEO) for Saint Catherine Hospital in East Chicago. JoAnn has been a leader in healthcare administration for many years. In 1995, she was named senior vice president of operations for Ancilla Systems, where she oversaw seven hospitals throughout Indiana and Illinois. In 2001, she assisted in the merger of Saint Catherine Hospital and Saint Mary Medical Center with the Community Healthcare System. As CEO of Saint Catherine Hospital, JoAnn leads through modern management techniques and follows the hospital's mission to serve all in need of medical care. In addition, she is a member of the Indiana Hospital Association Board, has helped to promote Medicaid expansion in Indiana, and assisted in the founding of the Nazareth Home in East Chicago.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is Urschel Laboratories, Incorporated. For over 100 years, Urschel Laboratories has been known for its innovation, excellent customer service, and generosity. Recently, the company completed construction of its new \$80 million facility. In March of this year, the Urschel family sold the company to its employees in order to ensure a secure retirement for each of them. In addition, the Urschel family has given much of its time, effort, and contributions throughout the years to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Porter County, the Valparaiso Family YMCA, and the William E. Urschel Pavilion ice rink in Valparaiso.

The recipient of the Partners in Progress Award and the keynote speaker for the event is the Honorable Earline Rogers, Indiana State